

LOCAL POLITICS.

REPUBLICAN TOWN CONVENTION WILL BE HELD TO-NIGHT.

Republican Ward Primaries Will Also Take Place To-night—Theodore H. Ward Not a Candidate for Councilman-at-Large—Great Activity in Political Circles

To-day will be a busy one in local political circles. Before midnight it will be publicly known who will be the candidates to be voted for at the election to be held on Tuesday, April 8. The Republican Town Convention will be held at 8:45 o'clock to-night in Essex County Building and Loan Hall, when the party candidate for member-at-large of the Town Council will be nominated. The First and Third Ward Republican Ward Conventions will also be held to-night, previous to the Town Convention. Independent nominations will be filed with the Town Clerk to-day.

The making of nominations several days previous to the election gives an entire week for the discussion of candidates and policy, and other general campaign work.

The Republican Executive and Advisory Committee held a meeting on Wednesday night at which each election district in the town was well represented. On the same night the people interested in making up a Citizens' ticket, held a meeting and discussed available candidates for making up a complete town ticket. Nothing was said about candidates at the Republican gathering. Mr. Thomas McGowan made a speech in which he urged loyal support of the Republican nominees whoever they might be. Mr. McGowan deprecated very much the tendency to use the knife that had been displayed in local political contests of late years.

Theodore H. Ward, who was so acceptably filled the position of presiding officer of the Town Council for the past two years, has positively declined a renomination for Councilman-at-Large. It has been assumed, and no doubt without warrant, that Mr. Ward would accept the Republican nomination for that office, and acting on that assumption, the Republicans have not given much thought to the selection of any other candidate. Since Mr. Ward's declination has been announced, there has been much anxiety manifested over the selection of a candidate for the place. A number of men for the office have been named, but not one of them will accept.

The nomination of former Councilman George Fisher for Councilman-at-Large, was talked about in political circles yesterday and met with much favor. There is a probability of a contest to-night in the Republican Town Convention over the nomination of a Councilman-at-Large. The First Ward may present the name of former Councilman James H. Moore, if Mr. Moore can be prevailed upon to permit the use of his name.

John A. Lawrence appears to be the general favorite throughout the town for presiding officer of the Council, and would no doubt be the strongest candidate that the Republicans could place before the people at this present stage.

The promoters of the Citizens' ticket have under consideration two candidates for the nomination for Councilman-at-Large, and both are men who would be hard to beat at the polls under present conditions. One of them is Dr. W. F. Harrison now member of the Council from the Second Ward, and the other is Allison Dodd.

The fight for the nomination for member of Council from the First Ward is the liveliest that has been experienced for years.

In the Second Ward Councilman James J. Thompson has been endorsed by the Republicans, and it was confidently stated yesterday that he would be the Republican candidate.

In the Third Ward the situation yesterday up to the time of holding the primaries looked very favorable for Councilman John R. Conlan's renomination. There was some talk of a contest at the Second District primary, but the rumor could not be verified.

Petitions are in circulation for independent candidates for Councilmen—one in the Second Ward for James M. Walker, and one in the Third Ward for Daniel J. Brady.

Republican Conventions.

The Republican Town Convention will be held to-night in Essex County Building and Loan Hall, at 8:45 o'clock. The number of delegates to the Convention will be 104, and will be as follows: First Ward, 40; Second Ward, 23; Third Ward, 41.

The First Ward Republican Convention will be held in the Bloomfield Building and Loan Rooms, and the Third Ward Republican Convention will be held at No. 29 Glenwood Avenue, formerly James's meat market. The Ward Conventions will be held previous to the Town Convention.

State Legislature.

The State Legislature finished its work and adjourned Thursday night. This session of the Legislature has been one of great importance to the people here, as many of the measures under consideration were of vital local importance. Pre-eminent among these was the annexation bill; then the election merger bill. The canal abandonment bill and the Passaic pollution questions were also of local importance. The annexation bill and election merger were killed. The canal abandonment scheme was placed in the hands of a commission, and on Wednesday morning a happy solution to the Passaic pollution problem, which threatened to disrupt the Republicans of North Jersey, was reached through Senator McCarter, of Essex, who had his pollution bill recalled, and then offered a substitute, which he said was the result of a conference between himself and the Senators from Passaic and Bergen, together with the Governor. He stated it was not exactly what was wanted, but was generally satisfactory as a compromise measure to all interests concerned. The substitute follows the lines of the original bill, providing for the creation of a commission to investigate the whole question at issue, but the operation of the commission is so limited that the work of purifying the Passaic River will not be consummated this year. The maximum expense is \$50,000. While the work of the commission will not be consummated this year, it has been arranged that it will go on and as much as can be accomplished before the next session of the Legislature will be performed.

Another measure of local importance became a law on Tuesday, when the House passed the general school bill, to take the place of the Sturges law, which the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional on technical lines, after a long and windy discussion. A fight was expected on the measure from the compacted forces of Essex and Hudson, but when the bill came up it was discovered that the Essex Republicans had found a light, and they were not so furiously opposed to the measure as they had been.

In the Assembly one of the first things of the Wednesday morning session was a bit of a fight on the Assembly bill permitting cities to make contracts with railroads for the occupation of streets and validating contracts already made. Mr. Walter of Camden, explained that the bill was designed to assist in the construction of roads through cities. Mr. Boyd of Essex, declared that it was dangerous legislation, in that it would permit railroads to occupy any street or thoroughfare with only the consent of the municipality, and without regard to the rights of the property-owners.

"The rights of property-owners are protected in the bill," said Mr. Walter. The bill was passed by a vote of 33 to 12.

It is said to be the purpose of the bill to validate the construction of the belt line along the Delaware River front, in Camden. It may, however, assist in the work in the elevation of the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks in Camden.

It is a matter of local pride that the Assembly Representative from this vicinity, Mr. Robert M. Boyd of Montclair, has taken an active and prominent part in the work of the Legislature. Mr. Boyd's political record thus far has been highly pleasing to his immediate constituency, and it will not be at all surprising to find him brought out by the Republicans of this town, Glen Ridge and Montclair for some higher office than that of Assemblyman. It is nearly time that the position of State Senator came this way, and there is no doubt at all but what Mr. Boyd would make a very acceptable candidate for that position.

The general bill passed by the Legislature making appropriations for the fiscal year beginning November 1 next, carries a total of \$3,545,149.42. The supplemental bill for the present fiscal year appropriates \$738,269.75, a complete total of \$4,283,419.17.

Among some of the principal items are \$300,000 for new buildings at the State Reformatory at Rahway; \$20,000 for the Colored Industrial School; \$125,000 for a new Senate Chamber; \$40,000 for the State's show at St. Louis; and \$125,000 to enlarge the State House grounds. Out of the surplus comes 35 per cent for the public schools of the State, amounting to \$883,978, which is \$75,000 more than last year's total.

The bills were very promptly reported from committee and passed second reading after \$900 had been tacked on for the burial of the bodies of drowned sailors washed ashore on the sands of the coast, and \$1,300 had been added to the item for incidentals.

The country editors scored a victory in their fight to get the laws before the people through the columns of the newspapers. Senator Hand's bill providing for the publication of a synopsis of the laws of the session was passed by the Assembly by a vote of 53 to 4. It was advocated by Assemblyman Croese of Cape May, and not a voice was raised against it. The appropriation bill contains an item of \$25,000 to defray the expenses of the publication. The Governor is said to favor the bill in its present form.

The First Ward Republican Club held its annual election Friday night of last week, when the following officers were elected: President, Harry L. Osborne; Vice-President, James H. Brown; Secretary, Charles H. Macle; Treasurer, J. J. Howard; Executive Committee, Thomas McGowan, John A. Lawrence, and James H. Moore.

To Kill Off Competition.

The East Orange City Council does not propose to purchase the Orange Water Company's plant in that city, and still leave the Company free to compete with the city as a disburser of water. The Council intends that the city shall enjoy a monopoly of the business of selling water in the city limits, and on Monday night action was taken by the Council toward the condemnation both of the plant and the franchise of the Orange Water Company in East Orange. Councilmen Condit, Palmer, Porter and Jackson voted against the resolution because they did not favor the condemnation of the franchise, as there was no discussion over the matter.

Councilman Gedney presented a resolution reciting the fact that since the proposition was received from the Orange Water Company on July last to sell its plant to the City, the Water Committee had had further negotiations in an endeavor to obtain a lower offer for the plant or distributing system, in the plan for distributing water, empowering the city to sell to consumers in East Orange, but not including any pipe line land or other property or any pipe line for the purpose of supplying other municipalities. The committee having been unable to obtain a lower, further or more satisfactory offer, the resolution continued, it was resolved that the acts of the committee in its negotiations, and with the water company be ratified, and that the proposition of the Orange Water Company be declined. This resolution was adopted unanimously.

The company asked the city to pay \$800,000 for its plant, franchise and property on which its wells are located. Peter Milne, a civil engineer, appraised the value of the distributing system, pumps and machinery at \$353,500.92, and said it would cost \$400,000 to duplicate the system. He did not take the value of the franchise into consideration. These reports were made last July.

Mr. Gedney then offered another resolution, reciting the fact that at a special election held for that purpose the voters had accepted the act of 1876, and that, therefore, it was for the best interest of the city that it should acquire all mains, pipes, house connections, hydrants and other connections in the streets of the city, being the entire plant of the water company used in the conveyance and distribution of water to the inhabitants of East Orange; also all franchises so far as they extend to the laying of mains and the making of connections for the purpose of supplying the inhabitants with water, but not any engines, pumps or machinery or land or any other property. The pipes were described as follows: 23,374 feet 12-inch mains, 8,867 feet 8-inch mains, 134,338 feet 6-inch mains, 122,452 feet 4-inch mains, 359 fire hydrants.

The resolution continued that the city should proceed with the condemnation of this property, and that a petition should be presented to the proper judicial officer for the appointment of commissioners, and that the city counsel should execute such papers as may be necessary.

Kindergarten Schools.

Whatever may be the object of the Bloomfield Town Council in appointing a committee to consider retrenchment in municipal expenditures for the purpose of reducing the prevailing high tax rate, it can be safely assumed that any effort to wipe out the kindergarten department in the schools will be productive of more sentiment in favor of annexing Newark to the city of Newark. That such a step is being contemplated is reliably reported, and the councilmanic committee is alleged to favor the scheme, because, it is claimed, the doing away with the kindergartens would effect a saving of \$7,000 per annum.

It has been alleged by those who favor annexation that the whole plan of retrenchment has been made public at this time for the one purpose of defeating the bill now pending in the Legislature providing for consolidation with Newark. If this be true, the anti-annexationists have made a most grievous blunder in allowing it to be known that they have any intention of curtailing the education system of the town. The application of the pruning-knife to existing citizens, to be resented by all thinking citizens, especially when it is proposed to lop off especially the kindergarten, a fundamental feature of the education system, is a sure way to defeat the plan. There are many other directions in which retrenchment might be effected without damage to the tax-burdened town, but so far as the kindergartens are concerned, no disposition on the part of the officials to cut down expenses would be largely curtail their personal revenue.

The tax rate at Bloomfield, now the highest of any prevailing in the municipalities of Essex County, might well be considerably reduced from \$3.25, but the reduction should not be at the expense of the public schools. If the proposition is made with the intent of supplying an argument against the passage of the annexation bill, it is likely to have a boom-crang effect. —Newark News.

The suggestion that \$7,000 might be saved by closing the kindergarten department of the public schools is approval that will not meet with popular approval. Inquiry shows that closing the kindergarten would keep about one hundred children now under five years of age out of school who are by law permitted to attend school when there is a kindergarten department. As the State pays \$200 in the salary of every teacher, and three cents per day for every child's attendance, it appears that every child's attendance at the kindergarten, since all children over five years would have to be placed in new primary classes.

A SCHOOL QUESTION.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES OF THE ADOPTION OF ARTICLE SIX OF THE NEW SCHOOL LAW—THE MATTER OF APPROPRIATIONS INVOLVED.

Recent legislation with respect to school matters has caused much confusion in the administration of school affairs. Cities, towns, townships, boroughs, and villages have various ways of conducting their schools, and various acts of the Legislature in recent years passed with a view to reaching uniformity have had for the time being an opposite result, and School Boards in the various municipalities are put to much trouble to understand their legal rights and powers in the administration of school affairs.

A new school act passed at the recent session of the Legislature has caused the School Board to take action with respect to raising school money here, and the Board of Education of this town at their last meeting decided to submit the question of the acceptance of the provisions of article 6 of the new school act passed at the session of the Legislature which has just closed to the voters of Bloomfield at the coming local election. The object sought to be accomplished by this action is to enable the appropriations for school purposes to be passed upon and decided by a Board of Estimate to be composed of three members of the Town Council, and two members of the Board of Education. This will put the question of appropriation for school purposes within the control of the School Board. The friends of the school generally favor the acceptance of the provisions of this act.

The act of the School Board will necessitate the use of an additional ballot at the local election. The ticket for the local election, the adoption of article 6 of the new school act, and the establishment of a system of public instruction, approved March 26, 1902.

Section 42 of article 6 provides that the executive officer of the municipality shall in December next appoint nine persons to be members of the Board of Education, three for the term of one year, three for two years, and three for three years, and annually thereafter their members shall be appointed for the term of three years. The particular section that it is desired to adopt in this town is section 77, which reads as follows:

"Between the fifteenth day of May and the first day of June in each year said Board of School Estimate shall fix and determine the amount of money necessary to be appropriated for the use of the public schools in such district for the ensuing school year, exclusive of the amount which shall have been apportioned to it by the County Superintendent of Schools. Said Board of School Estimate shall, on or before the last named date, make two certificates of said amount, signed by at least three of the members of said board, one of which certificates shall be delivered to the Board of Education of said school district, and the other to the Common Council, Board of Finance, or other body in the city having the power to make appropriations of moneys raised by taxes in such city. Said Common Council, Board of Finance, or other body shall, upon receipt of said notice, appropriate in the same manner as other appropriations are made by it the amount so certified as aforesaid, levied and collected in the same manner as moneys appropriated for other purposes in such city shall be assessed, levied and collected; provided, that any amount in excess of three-fourths of one per centum of the taxable valuation of the real and personal property shall be appropriated only with the concurrence and consent of said Common Council, Board of Finance, or other body, expressed by its resolution duly passed; and provided further, that if the charter of the city shall limit the amount of tax or the rate of taxation in such city, so that the provisions of this section cannot be carried out, or shall otherwise by its terms prevent the carrying out of the provisions of this section, the same shall be hereafter held not to apply to the raising of money under the provisions of this section."

THE SCHOOL ISSUE.

What Will Follow If the Recommendations of the School Board Fail of Adoption at the Polls Tuesday.

If the proposition set forth in the special ticket that will be voted at Tuesday's election fails of endorsement by the people, some important and inconvenient changes will have to be made to the conduct of school affairs. Under the law the Board of Education can be limited to three members. The election of members of the Board must be held in the schoolhouse after the manner once in vogue here.

School appropriations must be voted at school meetings, and the whole tenor of article 7 of the new law, which will be in force here if article 6 is not adopted, is of a character more adaptable to rural communities than to municipalities bordering on large cities. To be compelled to conform with article 7 would be a backward step in school administration here.

Sections 87 and 88 of article 7 read as follows: "Section 87. All elections for members of a Board of Education created under the provisions of this article shall be by ballot. The polls for such election shall remain open for four and as much longer as may be necessary to enable the legal voters present to cast their ballots. Said ballots may be printed or written, or partly printed and partly written. In case a member of a Board of Education is to be elected for a full term, and a member is to be elected to fill an unexpired term, the ballots shall designate which of the persons voted for is to be elected for the full term, and which for the unexpired term. The Chairman of the meeting shall appoint two tellers, who shall receive and count the ballots in his presence, and the Chairman shall announce the result of such election. The Secretary of the meeting shall keep a poll-list and record (stating the name of each person voting at such election, and shall also keep a tally-sheet of the votes as counted by the tellers. The tally-sheet shall be signed by the Chairman and tellers, and said tally-sheet, poll-list, and ballots shall be placed by the Secretary in a sealed package endorsed with the name of the district, the name of the county in which said district shall be situated, and the date on which said election shall have been held, and said package, together with a statement of the result of said election signed by the Chairman and Secretary, shall be, by said Secretary, deposited with the District Clerk, and a copy of said statement shall be forwarded by said Secretary to the County Superintendent of Schools within five days after the date of such election, and the same shall be preserved for one year."

Section 88. At any annual meeting when the question of raising a tax, the levying of bonds, or the establishing of a union graded school is to be voted on, two ballot boxes shall be provided for each two-thirds shall be appointed for each box. One of said boxes shall be used to receive the ballots for member of the Board of Education and the other to receive the ballots for the other objects enumerated in this section.

Clinton Street, Bloomfield, —Adt.

"Banner," and "Bally Round the Flag."

